means advances are being kept by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) J. & K. Bank Ltd., which is a State owned bank, is carrying on the business of J. & K. Government within the State. When RBI entered into a restricted agreement with the State Government in 1972, to attend to work relating to the issue and management of public debt of the State Government, it was decided to continue the J. & K. Bank as banker of the Government of J. & K., since transfer of Government business from the Bank by withdrawing Government balances would have affected its financial position, viability and profitability. Weekly information regarding outstanding balances of J. & K. Government with the Bank is being furnished to RBI by J. & K. Government. As regards Sikkim State, its accounts are maintained with the State Bank of Sikkim and the Banking Regulation Act has been extended to the State of Sikkim only w.e.f. 15-12-1987. RBI can act as a banker to the State Government if the latter enters into an agreement with RBI.

Payments to contractors by NTC, Calcutta

804. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta is unable to make timely payments to the contractors presently engaged to carry out civil engineering jobs in the Jyoti Weaving Factory, Calcutta;

(b) whether as a result thereof the contractors are refusing to expedite the job completion;

(c) if so, what are the facts thereof and the details/numbers of such contractors working presently in the aforesaid factory alongwith value of jobs and dates of award of contracts and the time of completion, etc.; and

(d) what further steps are being proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No interruption of work has been reported.

(d) NTC has taken steps to expedite the completion of the jobs.

Rise in prices of Natural Rubber

805. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of natural rubber have shown a rising trend recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the rubber prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Excepting during January, 1988 when the prices of natural rubber have been slightly more than the prescribed price band, the price of rubber during the past three months have been within this band. This rise has been due to cessation of tapping season and increased demand for rubber.

The Government has already advised the STC for releasing rubber to the user industries to check the rubber prices.

यात्री गाड़ियों में डकैतियां

806. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जनवरी, फरवरी, 1988 के दौरान यात्री गाड़ियों मे डकैती की कितनी घटनाएं हुई, ये डकैतियां किन-किन गाड़ियों में हुई, इन घटनाओं में कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई और कितने घायल हुए और कितनी धनराशि या कितने मूल्य का सामान लूटा गया ; और

(ख) यात्री गाड़ियों में डकैती की इस प्रकार की घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत तथा पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) : (क) रेलगाड़ियों में अपराध के मामले सरकारी रेल पुलिस समेत जो राज्य सरकारों के नियंत्रणाधीन कार्य करती है राज्य सरकार की एजेन्सियों को सूचित, दर्ज किए जाते हैं और इनके द्वारा जांच पड़ताल की जाती है । केन्द्रीय एजेन्सियां द्वारा विशेष रूप से यात्री गाड़ियों में डकैती के आंकड़े संकलित नहीं किये जाते है ।

(ख) सरकारी रेलवे पुलिस स्थानीय परिस्थितियों के अनुसार फास्ट/सुपर फास्ट, मेल/एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों में संरक्षक उपलब्ध कराती है । जब आवश्यक हो इस कार्य में रेलवे सुरक्षा बल सरकारी रेलवे पुलिस की सहायता करती है ।

Responsibility for Fire-Fighting equipment in high rise buildings

807. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of responsibility for installing anti-fire equipment in Delhi high-rise buildings has become a cause for dispute between builders and promoters on the one hand and occupiers of the buildings on the other due to which the fire safety measures in these buildings have become a distant hope; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to fix responsibility for installation of fire-safety equipment in these buildings and to ensure that these are complied with, as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fresh notices are being sent to the occupiers as well as owners/builders of the high-rise buildings for providing fire safety measures within 3 months from the date of issue of notices.

Rehabilitation of persons affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project

808. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the residents of nearly 300 villages in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have been affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project across the Narmada river,

(b) whether it is also a fact that no satisfactory arrangements have so far been made for their rehabilitation despite several representations;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken for the proper rehabilitation of the displaced persons from these villages?